

SERC MEETING

Nebraska Educational Television

Lincoln, Nebraska

January 8, 2013 1300 CDT

- I. Call to Order, Introduction of Members
Keith Hansen, Chair, called the meeting to order at 1:00 PM.

An open meeting Statute, available for review, was available on the registration table.

Member		Affiliation	Present
(empty)		County Elected Official	
Al	Berndt	NE Emergency Management	X
(empty)		Industry	
Steven	Danon	Small Business	
Keith	Deiml	Education	X
Don	Eisenhauer	Agribusiness	X
Jim	Heine	State Fire Marshal	X
Joe	Francis	Department of Environmental Quality	
Gary	Gandara	Labor	
Keith	Hansen	Chair, Community Health	X
Tim	Hofbauer	Vice Chair, Local Emergency Management	X
Larry	Johnson	Trucking Association	X
Judd	Lyons	ARNG	
Mark	Lohnes	NDEQ SARA Title III	X
(empty)		City Government	
Mark	Maday	Transportation	X
Dana	Miller	Fire	X via video conference
Tonya	Ngotel	SERC Coordinator	X
Kimberly	Plouzek	Environmental	X
Tom	Sands	Department of Roads	
Tom	Schwarten	State Patrol	X
Sue	Semerena	Health and Human Services	X
Jessica	Sherwood	Department of Roads Alt	

Others Present: Brian Daake (*City of Beatrice Fire Chief*); Steve Zimmerman (*City Fire Chief, Fairbury*); John McKee (*Jefferson County Emergency Management Director*); Hayley Sutter (*Public Policy Center*); Janell Walther (*Public Policy Center*); Mark DeKraai (*Public Policy Center*);
Present Via Video Conference- Region 7 EPA; Terri Blunk; Patricia Rice; Amber Whisnant; Patrick Bustos

- II. Approval of Agenda for January 8, 2013
Due to time constraints with Chiefs Zimmerman and Daake, Keith Hansen asked to move the Fairbury Response under Item VIII to directly under Item III in the Agenda. Larry Johnson made a motion to approve the amendment. Tom Schwarten seconded the motion; the motion passed by consensus.

Larry Johnson made a motion to approve the amended agenda. Keith Deiml seconded the motion; the motion passed by consensus.

III. Approval of Minutes from October 2, 2012 meeting.

Sue Semerena made a motion to approve the October 2012 minutes pending suggested changes to attendees list and individuals presenting information. Larry Johnson seconded the motion; the motion passed by consensus.

IV. Public Forum

Fairbury Response; Chief Daake Beatrice Fire and Rescue & Chief Steve Zimmerman Chief Fairbury Fire
On Friday, November 9, 2012 a chemical spill at the Jefferson Community Health Center in Fairbury, Nebraska forced the evacuation of nearly 80 people from the hospital, a nearby nursing home and several residences. Since the 1960s Fairbury and Beatrice have engaged in a Mutual Aid Agreement, one of the few in the state, and the Beatrice hazmat team was called to assist the Fairbury responders. Upon request from Fairbury, a forwarding party from Beatrice was sent to survey the scene and assess the extent of the threat; additional responders arrived on the scene within three hours of the initial request from Fairbury. The Beatrice hazmat team conducted a preliminary investigation into the nature of the chemical spill. The chemical spill required more equipment than the Beatrice team had, and the decision was made to engage the 72nd Civil Support Team, a National Guard unit. This was the first time the 72nd Civil Support Team has been utilized as a response asset.

Upon arrival, the CST surveyed the area; they found corrosive materials and identified chemicals used in the facility's laundry room as the potential cause for the chemical spill. The CST also monitored the city's sewer system to ensure the water supply did not become contaminated. With assistance from the Red Cross, a nearby church was established as the evacuation site; following the incident it was requested that this sight be the location for any future evacuations.

This incident underscored the necessity of Mutual Aid Agreements, the 72nd Civil Support Team and continued planning and exercises at both the state and local level. Without the support of the Beatrice hazmat team and the 72nd Civil Support Team, this chemical spill could have resulted in a multiday incident, costing the city of Fairbury a substantial amount of money. As a direct result of this incident, the use of one of the hazardous chemicals related to this incident has been discontinued at the Jefferson Community Health Center, the manufacturing company of the suspected chemicals has amended their product manuals, and personnel at the health center have pledged to support continued emergency planning and training activities.

V. New Business

No report.

VI. Old Business

a. LEPC Membership Approval (Vote)

Twenty-six applications for membership¹ were received, including two applications for a facility membership (XL Four Star Beef and Three Rivers District Health Department). Larry Johnson made a motion to approve LEPC membership applications. Tom Schwarten seconded this motion; the motion passed by consensus.

b. SERC Membership Committee

i. Status Report

Three positions are available on the SERC: a County Elected Official, a City Government and an Industry. Inquiries should be sent to Tonya Ngotel.

¹ For the complete list of applications, see Appendix I

c. SERC Subcommittee Report

i. Public Outreach/LEPC Support

Tonya Ngotel and Mark Lohnes have attended a number of LEPC meetings including Homestead, Douglas County and South Central. Tonya Ngotel will provide information on upcoming LEPC meetings to members and encourages others to attend. LEPC members appreciate SERC member attendance at the meetings. HMEP funding can fund travel to LEPC meetings; interested SERC members should speak to Tonya Ngotel.

ii. LEPC Function

1. Strategic Report – The SERC will review and update the strategic report at the upcoming 2013 SERC Retreat in April. Members are encouraged to review and work on action items within the report and offer support and encouragement to the subcommittees.

d. 2013 Regional LEPC Conference

The Regional LEPC Conference will be held on July 25-27 in Kansas City. The Hazardous Materials Emergency Preparedness (HMEP) grant money is available for LEPC members to send members to the conference; the deadline for this grant is Friday, January 11, 2013. Members of SERC need not submit an application but let Tonya Ngotel know if your interest in attending.

e. Other

i. SERC Strategic Planning

At the last Strategic Planning meeting, Kimberly Plouzek suggested broadening representation to include innovators throughout the state that are a part of LEPCs. Following the Strategic Planning meeting, Holdrege, NE (South Central) was chosen as the site for the SERC Retreat.

In preparation for the next Strategic Planning meeting, considerations for: evaluating the accomplishments of the previous plans and goals that were not accomplished, measuring progress in implementation, identifying necessary resources to complete tasks, evaluating necessary changes, and providing information to cities and counties about Mutual Aid Agreements will be addressed. At the April meeting, an updated report will be available outlining the successes, shortfalls and methods used to achieve the goals of previous Strategic Plans.

There will be a subcommittee to start working on standard operating procedures (SOPs) and local emergency operations plans (LEOPs) for hazmat before the April meeting. Those interested in participating should contact Mark DeKraai or Tonya Ngotel.

ii. Safety Council Conference

The Safety Council Conference will be held April 16-17; the exhibitors' conference will be on April 16. Fire School will be held May 17-19 in Grand Island. The SERC retreat will be held on April 2-3 in Holdrege.

VII. Report from NEMA

The 2011/2012 grant year ended on September 31, 2012. SERC was awarded \$155,315 in training grant and \$144,251 in planning grant, totaling \$299,566. Training activities spent \$141,158.54; planning activities spent \$122,457.96. This resulted in \$263,951.58 being allocated and \$35,614.42 unobligated.

The current grant awards \$155,185 for training activities and \$144,121 for planning activities, totaling \$299,306.

The majority of the planning budget will be allocated for the development, printing and distribution of local LEOPs. The majority of the remaining money will be allocated to the Public Policy Center for assistance with

SERC and the University of Nebraska for the commodity flow studies (this will be the final year for the commodity flow studies). The operational costs of LEPCs are funded through this grant. The NASTTPO conference is also funded with this grant. A proposed Nebraska Hazmat Challenge would be funded through this grant.

Part of the grant for training goes to the Law Enforcement Training Center through the Crime Commission to offer hazmat training to the State Patrol, Sheriffs and those attending the Grand Island training camp. The Nebraska Hazardous Incident Team (NHIT) receives a portion of the grant to fund their quarterly training. The State Fire Marshal receives funding from this grant for hazmat training.

Tier II forms for the Emergency and Hazardous Chemical Inventory Forms have been received. Information on the electronic submission of these forms can be found on the NDEQ website. Emergency Managers for every county have been verified including their name, address, phone number and email address.

VIII. Report from NDEQ/EPA

Grant money is available for Toxic Release Inventories (TRIs). Proposals are being accepted for those seeking to increase the awareness, understanding and use of TRI beta and other toxic chemical information. For more information visit grants.gov.

The EPA is developing an EPCRA online training course. The training is specifically for inspectors but is useful for planners as well. This training should be released in February 2013. Similarly, an online training specifically for LEPCs should be released in May.

Amendments to the Emergency and Hazardous Chemical Inventory Forms were made in July 2012; these changes will take effect on January 1, 2014.

The EPA Region 7 Regional Office has moved. Their address is now 1201 Renner Blvd. Lenexa, KS 66219. All phone numbers and email accounts have remained the same.

IX. Public Presentation

Mercury Response – Kirk Morrow, NDEQ

The danger of mercury is related to its low vapor pressure and freezing point. At room temperature (20° C) the vapor pressure of elemental mercury is 1.2 µmHg (at the same temperature, water has a vapor pressure of 17.5 µmHg); additionally, the freezing point of mercury is -38° C. Due to its low vapor pressure and freezing point, mercury nearly continuously emits toxic vapor. Additionally, although elemental mercury is insoluble, its vapor is soluble and can contaminate water sources. The inhalation of mercury is more toxic than the ingestion of it.

The EPA had generally been the primary responder for mercury spills until it began lending equipment and instrumentation to the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services. Recently, this responsibility was transitioned over to the NDEQ. In mercury spill situations, the NDEQ provides field research and the DHHS maintains the collection programs and provides logistical decisions.

The Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) has set standards for acceptable vapor levels of mercury. In a normal residential setting, the ATSDR requires mercury cleanup when the vapor level exceed 1µg/m³; in a commercial setting, cleanup is required once vapor levels are greater than 3µg/m³.

The typical process for a mercury spill cleanup begins with the appropriate mercury program being contacted and necessary technical advice given to the caller. The NE-DHHS will then determine if onsite assistance or screening is necessary; if so, the NDEQ or US-EPA will be contacted. The NDEQ will complete initial screening and provide test results. At this point, the NE-DHHS or US-EPA may be consulted to determine if further recommendations or actions should be taken. When necessary, the US-EPA Region 7 will provide assistance.

During the initial screening, the NDEQ will evaluate the severity of the mercury spill based upon the following criteria: the location of the spill, type of surface the spill occurred on, number of droplets, temperature of the spill, location, length of time since the spill, who is being exposed to the spill, how the initial cleanup was conducted, and any other pertinent factors.

The NDEQ has a trained response team specifically for mercury spills; this team is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week. The NDEQ is equipped with personal protection gear, a Jerome Model 431-X Mercury Vapor Analyzer, Lumex Model RA915+ Mercury Vapor Analyzer, ventilation fans, scoops, containers and vermiculite.

Questions regarding mercury spills can be directed to the Mercury Hotline at 402-326-0231, the NDEQ mainline at 402-471-2186, the EPA Region 7 Spill Line at 913-281-0991, or you can reach Kirk directly at 402-471-8584.

X. Next Meeting: April 2, 2013, 1:00 PM. Held in conjunction with the 2013 Retreat at the Super 8 Motel, Holdrege NE. Tonya Ngotel will arrange hotel reservations.

XI. Adjournment

Mark Maday made a motion to adjourn at 3:03 PM. Sue Semerina seconded the motion; the motion passed by consensus.



EPA Report-Out



Nebraska State Emergency Response Commission Meeting

January 8, 2013

Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act (EPCRA) / Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA)

Toxic Release Inventory (TRI) Updates

- **TRI Interactive Educational Tool: Tox Town.** Have you ever wondered which chemicals are in your community and what impacts they may have on your health? The National Library of Medicine has an interesting interactive website that introduces middle school, high school, and college students, as well as educators and the general public, to toxic chemicals in their everyday environment. Tox Town uses graphics, sounds, and animation to show the connections between chemicals, the environment, and the public's health. To access this tool, please visit <http://toxtown.nlm.nih.gov/flash/border/flash.php>
- **EPCRA 313 – Grants Funding Opportunity.** A [request for proposals](#) titled "Increasing Community Awareness and Use of Environmental Information through Education and Outreach" is now available. This announcement, which is also posted on [Grants.gov](#), solicits proposals that will increase awareness, understanding and use of the TRI data and other related toxic chemical information to new audiences and through new avenues. The deadline for proposals is March 1, 2013.
- **TRI.NET Application Updated with 2011 Data.** TRI.NET has been updated to include the most recent TRI data from the 2011 calendar year. The data are also available in Envirofacts and TRI Explorer, as well as in downloadable files. EPA will use these data to construct the 2011 TRI National Analysis report, planned for publication in January. For more information visit the following website: <http://www.epa.gov/tri/>.
- **TRI Launches New Pollution Prevention Webpage.** In administering TRI, EPA seeks to highlight the many steps that businesses across America are taking to promote pollution prevention (P2) and sustainability. To this end, the TRI program is working to increase the prominence and usability of the wealth of information TRI collects annually about facility efforts to reduce releases of toxic chemicals to the environment. To learn more, visit TRI's new P2 webpage at <http://www.epa.gov/tri/P2/index.html> and check back for new ways to access and analyze TRI's P2 data.
- **EPA has reinstated the TRI reporting requirements for hydrogen sulfide.** This action will be effective for the 2012 reporting year, with the first reports due from facilities by July 1, 2013.
- **Announcing the TRI University Engagement Initiative.** This new initiative is focused on developing sustained, mutually-beneficial relationships with colleges and universities. Beginning this fall, we'll be looking for colleges and universities to collaborate with us on a variety of exciting projects related to using, understanding and increasing awareness of TRI in academic communities. In the meantime, we encourage you to learn more about the TRI University Engagement Initiative, look at the results from our two pilot projects and watch the website for announcements about the upcoming fall application period. For more information visit the following website: <http://www.epa.gov/tri/university/initiative/index.htm>
- **EPA invites interested stakeholders to provide input** on a variety of topics related to EPA plans to potentially broaden the scope of industry sectors covered by TRI. EPA is considering adding or expanding coverage of the following industry sectors: Iron Ore Mining, Phosphate Mining, Solid Waste Combustors and Incinerators, Large Dry Cleaning, Petroleum Bulk Storage, and Steam Generation from Coal and/or Oil. For further information or to provide input, visit: <http://www.regulations.gov/exchange/topic/trisectorsrule>.

EPCRA/CERCLA (cont.)

EPCRA On-line Training

EPA Headquarters is developing an on-line EPCRA training course designed to help EPCRA inspectors to obtain their credentials. Although the primary audience is EPCRA inspectors, it is also useful for EPCRA regulators. Date of release for the inspector training module is scheduled for February 2013. The Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) Emergency Planning Training module is scheduled to be released in May 2013. When it becomes available on-line, you will be able to find a link to this training at

<http://www.epa.gov/emergencies/content/epcra/index.htm>.

Amendments to the Emergency and Hazardous Chemical Inventory Forms - (Tier I and Tier II)

On July 13, 2012, EPA published a final rule to revise Tier I and Tier II reporting forms, as well as the Confidential Location Information Sheet. The revisions add some new data elements and revise some existing data elements. The rule becomes effective on January 1, 2014, and facilities must comply with the new requirements on the Tier II inventory form starting reporting year 2013, which is due by March 1, 2014. For more information visit the following website:

<http://www.epa.gov/emergencies/content/epcra/tier2.htm>

2013 Region 7 LEPC/TERC Conference

The next conference is planned for July 25-27, 2013 at the Marriott hotel in Overland Park, KS. If you want to participate in planning for the conference, please contact Steve Wurtz at 913-551-7315 or wurtz.stephen@epa.gov.

Emergency Response and Removal Update

● For information on removal actions completed by EPA, please visit <http://www.epaosc.org>.

Local Government Reimbursements (LGR) – Hazardous Substance Claims

To make a claim to EPA for reimbursement of costs associated with a hazardous materials response, go to <http://www.epa.gov/oem/content/lgr>. If you have questions, call the EPA Helpline at 1-800-431-9209.

U.S. Coast Guard National Pollution Funds Center (NPFC) – Oil Claims

To make a claim for costs or damages from an incident under the Oil Pollution Act of 1990 (OPA), use the two-page form found at the bottom of the NPFC Claimant's Guide, which can be found at <http://www.uscg.mil/npfc/urg/>.

Clean Air Act (CAA) 112(r) - Risk Management Program

- If you know of any facility in Nebraska that needs compliance assistance with their Risk Management Program or Risk Management Plan (RMP), please contact EPA Region 7's Nebraska compliance assistance expert at 913-551-7408 or greenwald.steven@epa.gov.
- If you have concerns about any Risk Management Program facility or know of one that has closed, contact Terri Blunk at 913-551-7013 or blunk.terri@epa.gov.
- If you want access to the RMPInfo website (with/without offsite consequence data), e-mail your name, title, agency/company name, address, phone number, and e-mail address to Terri.

Other News

Update Your Address Books – the EPA Region 7 Regional Office has Moved

Our new address is 11201 Renner Blvd., Lenexa, KS 66219. EPA Region 7 phone numbers and e-mail addresses have remained the same. Thank you for your patience during our transition.

New App Lets Users Check Health of Waterways Anywhere in the U.S.

EPA has launched a new app and website to help people find information on the condition of thousands of lakes, rivers and streams across the United States from their smart phone, tablet or desktop computer. Available at <http://www.epa.gov/mywaterway>, the How's My Waterway app and website uses GPS technology or a user-entered zip code or city name to provide information about the quality of local water bodies. "America's lakes, streams and rivers are national treasures. Communities and neighborhoods across the U.S. want to know that their local lakes, rivers and streams are healthy and safe to enjoy with their families," said Nancy Stoner, acting assistant administrator for EPA's Office of Water. "This new app provides easy, user-friendly access to the health of a waterway, whether it is safe for swimming and fishing, and what is being done about any reported problems. People can get this information whether researching at a desktop or standing streamside looking at a smart phone."

Various Training Opportunities – In Iowa, Kansas, and Missouri

- Hazardous Waste Operations and Emergency Response (HAZWOPER) 40-Hour. April 1-5, 2013 in Lenexa, KS. This course is designed for personnel involved with the investigation and remediation of uncontrolled hazardous waste sites and, to a lesser extent, response to an accident involving hazardous materials. It provides basic information needed to meet the forty hours training requirements of 29 CFR 1910.120 (e)(3)(i) HAZWOPER.

**Appendix I:
LEPC Membership Applications**

Name	Email	Representing	Occupation	County
Rebecca Barrientos-Patlan	rbpatlan@cox.net	Citizen/Public	Community Advocate – BRNA	Douglas
Tyler Bonnicksen	Wahoofire69@hotmail.com	Fire/EMS	Fire	Saunders
Roger Engel	rengel@saundersmedicalcenter.com	Hospital	Facility Manager	Saunders
Corrine Forbes	Cforbes718@yahoo.com	Education	Retired School Counselor	Saunders
Brad Hildebrandt	bhildebrandt@ci.omaha.ne.us	Fire/Hazmat	Fire Captain	Douglas
Karry Johnson	Brakeman62@cox.net	Citizen/Public	Retired	Douglas
Paul Johnson	Paul.johnson@douglascounty-ne.gov	EM	DCEMA	Douglas
Mindy Mangus	Melinda.mangus@redcross.org	Emergency Services	Disaster Services	Adams
Jim Morgan	shdhdmorgan@windstream.net	Health Department	South Heartland District Health Dept.	Adams
Chrissy Morrison	Helen.morrison@tyson.com	Industry	Safety Manager	Douglas
Julie Rezac	jrezac@saundersmedicalcenter.com	Hospital	RN, Director of Clinical Services	Saunders
Jason Rogers	jrogers@gering.org	Police	Police Captain	Region 22 EM
Dennis Rourke	drourke@safenebraska.org	National Safety Council	Director Occupational Health	Douglas
Leigh Salgado	Leigh.salgado@tyson.com		Environmental Manager	Douglas
Benjamin Salo	brsalo@UP.com	Transport	Manager, Hazmat	Douglas

Whitney Shipley	whitney.shipley@douglascounty-ne.gov		Emergency Management	Assistant Emergency Management Director	Douglas
John Silvester	jsilbester@hastings.edu		Education	Public Safety Director, Hastings College	Adams
Horace Spiller	Horace.spiller@offus.af.mil		Emergency Management	Offutt AFB EM	Douglas
Three Rivers District Health Department					
	Abbey Gregg	abbey@3rphd.org	Health Department	Manager of Public Health Services	Saunders
	Joel Haman	joel@3rphd.org	Health Department	Emergency Response Coordinator	Saunders
Aaron Todd	atodd@bfenergy.com			Safety Supervisor	Hall
Josh Trutng	Trutng12@hotmail.com		Hospital	RN, Saunders Medical Center	Saunders
Fredric Voelker	ricvoelker@reinke.com		Industry	Safety Manager	Homestead
Peg Woita	pwoita@saundersmedicalcenter.com		Hospital	RN, Safety/Infection Control/Disaster	Saunders
Marc Willis	Marc_willis@mudnebr.com		Gas and Water Utility	Security Compliance Specialist	Douglas
Uki Wolfe	Uki.wolfe@nebraska.gov		Nebraska Corrections	Emergency Preparedness Specialist	Seward/York
XL Four Star Beef					
	R. Hartman	rhartman@xlfourstar.com	Industry	Safety Director	Douglas
	J. Matthews	jmatthews@xlfourstar.com	Industry	Plant Engineer	Douglas